



Midsomer Norton Town Council

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Mayor: Councillor Gordon Mackay

Town Clerk: Katie Mason

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held in the Council Chambers, The Hollies, Midsomer Norton on Monday 6th November 2023 commencing at 7.00pm

Present: Cllrs Gordon Mackay (Mayor), Martyn Plant (Deputy Mayor), Shaun Hughes, Charlotte Lucas, Alun Pughe, Lynda Robertson, Deborah Thatcher and Tim Wells.

Also Present: Town Clerk Katie Mason, Admin Officer Joanne Corbett

Public Question Time – Informal session

There were three members of the public in attendance and no press. There were no questions or comments.

The formal meeting started at 7.08pm

115. Apologies for Absence and Proposal to allow Cllr Mike Moxham a leave of absence for up to six months (until May 2024)

Apologies from Cllr Martin Thatcher.

The Council **RESOLVED** to grant a leave of absence to Cllr Mike Moxham for up to six months (until May 2024).

Proposed: Cllr Lynda Robertson

Seconded: Cllr Alun Pughe

Unanimous.

116. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interests from Councillors and no requests for dispensations.

117. Mayor's Announcements

It was noted that the first Newsletter has been published on the Town Council website, and that the last Farmer's Market was a success

118. To confirm the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 2nd October 2023, previously circulated.

The Council **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 2nd October be accepted as a true record, they were signed by the Mayor.

119. To note reports from the following Committees and to ratify any actions. To receive an update from the Chairs of the following Committees.

Midsomer Norton Town Council Full Council Meeting – 6th November 2023

- (a) Finance and Operations Committee – 16th October 2023
Council **RESOLVED** to ratify the decision to award Midsomer Norton Carnival Club an annual grant of £8000 as this was above the delegation authority of the committee.
It was noted that Cllr Martyn Plant was elected as Chair of this committee.
It was noted that all those in receipt of a grant will be invited to report back to the Town Council. Council **RESOLVED** to invite the Carnival Club to attend a later meeting to address Councillors.
- (b) Planning Committee – 16th October 2023
Cllr Shaun Hughes gave a verbal update, including a verbal update from B&NES about the terminology to be used when supporting or objecting to planning matters. This will be addressed at the next meeting.
- (c) Finance and Operations Committee – 31st October 2023
It was noted that the Deputy Clerk has sent out further details about the 2023-2024 Budget since this meeting.

120. Reports from the Town Councils Working Parties

Verbal updates were given from the Community Alcohol Partnership, Town Council Strategy Working Party, High Street Working Party, Media & Communications Working Party and Midsomer Norton Neighbourhood Development Plan.

121. Reports from Councillors representing Outside Bodies

Verbal reports were given from Cllr Martyn Plant on the NALC Course on Empowering Youth Midsomer Norton Community Trust and the Community Trust Cultural Consortium.

122. Proposal to appoint another Councillor to the Finance and Operations Committee and the Planning Committee.

Council **RESOLVED** to defer the appointment of Councillors to the Finance and Operations and Planning Committees until there is a full complement of Councillors.

Council **RESOLVED** to review all committee membership and timings once there is a full complement of Councillors.

123. Policies

Council **RESOLVED** to approve and adopt the following policies following the review by the Finance and Operations Committee:

- (a) Annual Risk Assessment
- (b) Co-Option Policy
- (c) Public Participation Policy

Proposed: Cllr Deborah Thatcher

Seconded: Cllr Shaun Hughes

Unanimous.

124. Proposal to approve the Community Trusts request for £6,500 as a contribution towards the Town's Christmas Events.

Council RESOLVED to approve the request.

Proposed: Cllr Shaun Hughes

Seconded: Cllr Alun Pughe

Unanimous.

125. Update on the Christmas Events and acceptance of costings.

Council noted the plans for the Christmas Light Switch On and thanked Cllr Martyn Plant and the Community Trust.

126. Approval of the Annual Budget for 2024-2025 and approval of the Precept

Council **RESOLVED** to defer the Annual Budget for 2024-2025 until the next Finance and Operations Committee.

127. Proposal to approve the grant agreement from WECA and the approval of the quote for improvements to the Town Park.

This item was deferred to December's Full Council Meeting as the grant agreement had not yet been received.

128. Proposal to approve the quote from Andy King for commission of river signage on the High Street

Council **RESOLVED** to delegate officers to resolve the outstanding ownership issues with B&NES.

Council **RESOLVED** to pay Newleaf for their work to date and approve the quote for the commission of river signage on the High Street, once the outstanding ownership issues are resolved.

Proposed: Cllr Tim Wells

Seconded: Cllr Alun Pughe

Unanimous.

129. Discussion and any actions following on from the earlier brief on Phase II of the Town Hall.

Council **RESOLVED** to move this item to the end of the meeting.

Council **RESOLVED** to delegate officers to apply for grants to fund Phase II of the Town Hall Restoration Project.

Council **RESOLVED** to delegate officers to research how the Town Council might be supported by grant fund raising professionals in applying for grants for Phase II.

Council **RESOLVED** to employ a business consultant to create a business plan for Midsomer Norton Community Trust.

130. Clerks Report

The Clerk's Report was noted.

(a) The Town Council are now able to co-opt a new Councillor as no election was requested following the notice.

(b) Following the last meeting the Somerset Welfare Miners Trust have been given permission to install the miner figures, they will be added to the Town Council Asset List and there is no extra premium for the annual insurance.

he meeting closed at 9:06pm.

Date of Next Meeting

The next Full Council Meeting will be held on Monday 4th December commencing at 7pm.